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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/062 W
---------- 087255
R 111622Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3878
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23359

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FR
SUBJECT: HENRY BOLLE, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA

1. HENRY BOLLE WHO HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR RO MALAYSIA WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA HANDLING INDO-CHINA UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1975. FOR THE PAST NINE MONTHS HE HAS BEEN ON LEAVE. BOLLE HANDLED INDOCHINA AFFAIRS FOR NEARLY SIX YEARS AT A TIME WHEN THE PARIS TALKS MADE THAT POSITION PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BOLLE DID MUCH TO SOOTHE THIS ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONS WHILE THE DIRECTOR FOR ASIA AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE OCCASIONALLY QUITE ABRASIVE. HE WAS WELL INFORMED AND AS FRANK WITH US AS HIS SUPERIORS ALLOWED.

2. BOLLE IS NOW 62. KUALA LUMPUR IS HIS FIRST AND PROBABLY LAST AMBASSADORIAL POST. HIS PREVIOUS POSTS INCLUDE: MEXICO, ATHENS, MOSCOW, ZAGREB, GENOA AND PRAGUE AS WELL AS SEVERAL TOURS IN PARIS. ALTHOUGH NOT AN ASIAN HAND, BOLLE WAS GIVEN THE KEY INDOCHINA JOB AND HANDLED IT WELL ENOUGH FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE EXTENDED FOR AN UNUSUALLY LONG PERIOD. HE UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH AND SPEAKS IT FAIRLY WELL. HE WAS ALLEGEDLY ALSO CONSIDERED FOR
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AMBASSADOR TO LAOS, BUT APPARENTLY TOOK KUALA LUMPUR

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AS A MORE AGREEABLE POST. WE EXPECT HE WILL BE A
COMPETENT AMBASSADOR BUT PERHAPS NOT ONE OF THE MOST
ACTIVE SINCE HE IS RATHER RESERVED. HE SHOULD GET
ALONG WELL WITH HIS COLLEAGUES INCLUDING AMERICAN
AND BRITISH WHO HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR HIM WHILE HE
WAS HANDLING INDOCHINA AFFAIRS. BOLLE POINTS OUT
THAT HIS FAMILY'S ANGLOPHILIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE NON-FRENCH SPELLING OF HIS CHRISTIAN NAME. HE
ALSO ADDS THAT IT SOMETIMES
EXPLAINS HIS ANGLO-SAXON SENSE OF HUMOR.

3. IN SUM, BOLLE, IS SOLID DIPLOMAT WITH A GOOD
IF NOT BRILLIANT CAREER BEHIND HIM. HE SHOULD BE A
SOUND THOUGH UNEXCITING ADDITION TO THE MALAYSIAN
DIPLOMAT SCENE.
GAMMON

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Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
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TAGS: PDIP, FR, MY, (BOLLE, HENRY)
To: STATE KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
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